

July 2, 2023

Anxious Care

by George Slover

“But God composed the body, having given greater honor to that part which lacks it, that there should be no schism in the body, but that the members should have the same care for one another.” (1 Corinthians 12:24-25)

The key word is “care”. The Greek word *merimnao* is most often used in the negative sense. It means to be anxious, or to be filled with anxiety, or worry.

We often think of this word in the context Jesus’ personal ministry. “Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on.” (Matthew 6:25) Here Jesus exhorts us to not worry. Instead of anxious care, God wants us to pray and place our burdens on Him. (Philippians 4:6; I Peter 5:6,7) Jesus says, “Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? (Matthew 6:30) In the Parable of the Sower, Jesus warns of how such “cares” can choke out the word and destroy the desired fruit (Luke 8:14)

But, in the verse above we are commanded to have that anxious care for others. Here, God says don’t be divided, but be totally focused upon the needs and cares of your brother. If he has occasion to rejoice, don’t envy him, but rejoice with him. If he suffers, don’t belittle, but cry with him. The word “care” also carries with it the idea of being torn away or distracted. The Corinthians

were exhorted to get their minds detracted from their selfish ambitions and have diligent concern for one another.

Corinth was not the only place where such an attitude is needed. Local churches, communities, even the world needs people with this trait. Such folks are hard to find. The few that have such devotion are precious indeed! “For I have no one like-minded, who will sincerely care for your state. For all seek their own, not the things which are of Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 2:20-21)

Comparisons

by Rickie Jenkins

Paul said, “For we dare not class ourselves or compare ourselves with those who commend themselves. But they, measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise” (2 Cor. 10:12).

I think one of the curses we impose on ourselves is comparing ourselves with others. It’s a trap. We look at what others can do, and we may not be able to do what they do. We look at what others may have, and we may not be able to have the same thing or have as much. We look at how others are accepted but we may not be as accepted. The comparisons go on and on. All we do is beat ourselves up comparing ourselves with others.

We compare someone else’s strength against our weakness. When we compare

Welcome!

When you visit our assemblies, you will be received friendly, kindly and courteously. We believe this to be the natural attitude of those who truly love God and mankind. Though you may at first be among strangers, we hope that you will come to know us well and count us as your friends.

We offer Bible studies as well as correspondence courses for those interested in learning more about what God expects of us.

Important Dates

Bulverde Summer Series

- Bulverde church of Christ, Every Thursday June 1 - August 17

Our meeting with Mark Roberts

is scheduled for August 13-16

If you know of upcoming events, please inform Darrell so they can be included here.

ourselves to others, we're often comparing their best features against our average ones. It's like being right-handed and trying to play an instrument with your left hand. Not only do we naturally want to be better than them, but the realization that we are not often becomes self-destructive. We often skew judgment by comparing our lesser qualities to someone's best qualities. Which is like judging a fish by its ability to climb a tree. Comparisons do not give an accurate picture.

Also, comparing ourselves with others, we never see our strengths, gifts, and talents. We never see our good traits. We never see our contributions to life. We never see our own value or purpose. Therefore, we are never grateful for who we are and what we have.

How can we defeat this self-destructive habit? First, be aware it is happening. It can be subtle. Second, quit comparing. We don't know what others are going through. If we knew the details of the one with whom we compare ourselves it might help us see the emptiness of doing so. Third, practice gratitude. Gratitude will enable us to see how privileged we really are. Fourth, be comfortable with our own imperfections. No one is perfect! We all do a little "air-brushing" to cover up our flaws. Finally, be kind to yourself. We can be our own worst critics. Self-evaluation is valuable. But make sure the standard of that evaluation is not someone else. No one is as good as they think they are or is as bad as they say they are.

The truth is, I can only be me and you can only be you. Each one of us is unique and one of a kind. The one thing we share in is that we are made in the image of God. The most important things in life are the internal not the external. The most important thing is not how we measure up with others but how we measure up with Christ. "For not he who commends himself is approved, but who the Lord commends" (2 Cor. 10:18). Focus on being the best YOU that only YOU can be.

Prayer Requests

Jack Wilson is still struggling with pain and limited mobility.

Jerry Richardson is going to have a biopsy on Monday for a tumor near his lungs.

Dinah Williams continues to have mobility issues.

Don Simmons is still struggling with his breathing; he is on oxygen at all times. He is home from rehab.

Alene is having hip issues.

Lisa Mullen (Darrell's sister) is undergoing chemotherapy.

Sylvia Stinnett had had an accident and cut her leg. It is still healing and being treated with antibiotics.

Tony Mauck has cancer that has already spread.

Vicki Stevens has cancer and is undergoing treatment.

Margaret Vanaman is in Baylor Scott and White in Lakeway to treat the wound on her arm.

Syble Hargrove is in Kingsland Hills Care Center.

Jay and Tammy Parker have placed membership and have also recently moved to:

1803 Oatman Street
Llano, TX 78643

If you know of someone that needs to be on this list, please tell Darrell (email preferred) and provide updates so names stay on the list as long as needed.

"praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication.

**To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making s
upplication for all the saints,"
(Ephesians 6:18 ESV)**

The Oaks West church of Christ is a group of individual Christians who have been added to the Lord's body through baptism (Acts 2:38, 47; Gal 3:26, 27), and have joined themselves together (Acts 2:42ff) in an effort to do the Lord's will.

We are not a part of any larger organization - we do not follow any man-made creeds and we do not answer to anyone other than the Lord.

Our standard of faith and practice is the Word of God. We believe in the God of revelation (Eph 3:1-7; 2 Tim 3:16-17) and follow his instructions in an effort to have an ongoing relationship with him (1 John 4:7-11; 5:3).

Our times of study and worship are open to all, and our members are happy to meet with interested individuals or families for study.

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